



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber  
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, JULY 23, 2007  
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN  
PHONE: (502) 582-5911  
FAX: (502) 582-5097

## **RUSSELL COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS FOR CONSPIRING TO TRANSPORT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND ON-LINE EXTORTION**

BOWLING GREEN, KY - Scotty Hopper, age 43, of Russell Springs, Kentucky, in Russell County, was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment in United States District Court, Bowling Green, Kentucky, on two charges of conspiracy, including conspiring to transport child pornography and to commit extortion, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber announced today. Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Hopper to 10 years' supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Hopper had pled guilty to one count of conspiring to transport child pornography and one count of conspiring to commit extortion. As a result of the guilty plea, Hopper admitted that from in or about 2005 up to and including November 2006, Hopper, from Russell County, Kentucky, communicated *via* the Internet with Babar Majid Chaudhry who lived and worked in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Chaudhry and Hopper agreed between themselves to use malicious computer software ("malware"), programs to distribute viruses to the computers of minor girls they had met on the Internet distributing a computer virus, trojan file, or worm.

Law enforcement officials became aware of the scheme when the Oakland County Sheriff's Office in Michigan received a complaint from a 16-year old female in Michigan that her computer had been hacked into. The victim said that credit card and bank account information, personal photographs and other personal information were retrieved from her computer and the

person then used this information to blackmail her to take sexually explicit nude photographs of herself and send them to him or to pose nude in front of her web-cam for the other person to view and/or record.

Chaudhry was identified as the communicator with the 16-year-old victim and he was arrested while in the United States visiting relatives in Indiana. A search warrant was executed on the home where Chaudhry was staying and recovered evidence supporting the Michigan victim's information as well as other evidence of child exploitation criminal conduct. Chaudhry identified Hopper as the one he worked with to use malware programs to gain images and videos of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

A federal search warrant on Hopper's residence in Kentucky yielded numerous computers, computer diskettes, computer manuals, and a satellite dish Chaudhry had sent to Hopper during the course of their on-line friendship and cooperative efforts to obtain sexually explicit images of minor females. Forensic examination of the computer materials revealed malicious software programs consistent with the programs found on Chaudhry's computer. The forensic examination also revealed information regarding the uploading and downloading of information, including image files from a number of individuals.

Hopper acknowledged that he and Chaudhry worked together to carry out the scheme to meet minor females on the Internet. Once communication was established with a minor female, a malware program was released onto her computer. The malware program allowed Hopper to gain control of personal (including financial) information from the computer. Hopper and Chaudhry then used the personal information to coerce the minor female into providing them with images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. In some instances the girls were threatened with the disclosure of the personal information or the financial ruin of the girl or her

family based on the financial information gained from the computer unless she complied with the demands for sexually explicit materials. While carrying out these plans, Hopper and Chaudhry agreed to share the images obtained from the minor girls with each other, by transmitting them over the Internet.

Chaudhry has been prosecuted in the Michigan state court system as a result of the initial investigation. Law enforcement officials in the Western District of Kentucky are working with the United States Attorney's Office in Detroit, Michigan, on a continuing investigation of Chaudhry's conduct.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/).

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in close conjunction with the Kentucky State Police, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, Oakland, Michigan, and Ft. Wayne (Indiana) Police Department.

###